

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

/070 W

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R 281440Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2777

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USBERLIN

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: HEINEMANN LAUNCHES VOTERS' INITIATIVE FOR SPD IN B-W

1. SUMMARY: RECENTLY FORMED SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC VOTERS' INITIATIVE PRESENTED FORMER BUNDESPRAESIDENT DR. GUSTAV HEINEMANN AT JANUARY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE. HEINEMANN EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT SPD LAND CHAIRMAN DR. ERHARD EPPLER WOULD BE BETTER BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT THAN DR. FILBINGER (CDU) BECAUSE HE WAS MORE FORWARD LOOKING. HEINEMANN DOES NOT EXPECT PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS BECAUSE OF HEALTH. SPD VOTERS' INITIATIVE SO FAR GENERATING LESS SUPPORT AT THIS STAGE THAN SIMILAR EFFORT FOR 1972 ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. VOTERS INITIATIVE RECENTLY FORMED TO SUPPORT SPD IN APRIL

4 BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG LANDTAG AND OCTOBER BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. FORMER BUNDESPRAESIDENT HEINEMANN ADDRESSED OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE IN STUTTGART ON JANUARY 26 AND REJECTED CDU/CSU CRITICISM OF HIS SUPPORT OF THE VOTERS' INITIATIVE BECAUSE HE GETS RETIREMENT PAY EQUAL TO HIS FULL SALARY AS FEDERAL PRESIDENT. HEINEMANN SAID EVEN FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AGREED HE WAS ENTITLED TO EXPRESS HIS OPINION LIKE EVERY OTHER CITIZEN. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG ELECTION CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF HIS HEALTH, BUT WOULD NOT EXCLUDE OCCASIONAL TALKS WITH FRIENDS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG IF THEY ASKED.

3. HEINEMANN SPOKE IN FRIENDLY TERMS ABOUT BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT DR. HANS FILBINGER (CDU) BUT SAID HE CONSIDERED HIS FRIEND DR. ERHARD EPPLER, BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SPD LAND CHAIRMAN AND MINISTER PRESIDENT CANDIDATE, TO BE BETTER QUALIFIED BECAUSE HE WAS ORIENTED MORE TOWARDS THE FUTURE, WHEREAS FILBINGER AND THE CDU TENDED TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY WERE.

4. HEINEMANN'S PACIFISM BECAME APPARENT WHEN HE MAINTAINED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR FEDREP NOT TO HAVE REARMED AND TO HAVE JOINED NATO. THEY WERE FACTS NOW AND HAD TO BE SUPPORTED BUT THEY HAD LED TO A TERRIBLY COMPETITIVE ARMS RACE ON ALL SIDES FOR WHICH THE FRG HAD TO SPEND ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY AND NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH COULD BE BETTER USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

5. THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG VOTERS' INITIATIVE CONSISTS OF ABOUT 30 GROUPS WITH 2-200 MEMBERS AND FEELS HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF AN ATTRACTIVE POLITICAL PERSONALITY AT THE TOP. WHILE THE ACTIVISTS MAY WORK ALL THE HARDER TO ATTRACT POTENTIAL VOTERS, MANY ALREADY ADMIT THAT THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE 1972 CAMPAIGN IS MISSING. THEY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT SHIFTING MUCH MORE THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE VOTERS. THEIR MAIN TARGETS ARE THOSE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE REFORM RECORD OF THE SPD FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE UNDECIDED, AND THOSE LOST TO THE FDP. AT ANY RATE, THE PRESS CONFERENCE FEATURING HEINEMANN REPRESENTED A MORE SOPHISTICATED APPROACH TO THE LOCAL PRESS THAN USUALLY USED BY BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG POLITICAL PARTIES IN AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTION CAMPAIGN. JENKINS

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## Message Attributes

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